

## WAREHOUSE QUEST PROCEEDING ALREADY

Two Inspectors Examined  
by Coroner This  
Morning.

## CROWD SMILES AT TESTIMONY

Inquiry Into Collapsed Building  
Brings Out Some Odd  
Facts.

Two assistant inspectors from Building Inspector Ashford's Department went on the stand this morning to tell the coroner's jury what they know about the incidents preceding the collapse last Monday morning of the warehouse, under erection at North Capitol and M streets. Mr. Ashford sat in the back part of the room and listened intently. The first inspector, C. W. Curtis, an old man, very nervous, said that if the jury wanted his opinion, he didn't think the steel was fit to be used.

Beyond this statement Mr. Curtis did not give much startling testimony, except that he showed things about the building department which he made the attorneys and spectators smile. The report of Building Inspector Isham, who was in charge of the collapsed building, dated November 18, on which there was a remark that ten columns of steel were already up, bore on the bottom under the signature of Isham the words, "No permit. O. K. Somerville."

Writer Is Unknown.  
Mr. Curtis said he didn't know how this last line got on the report, but he was very sure that it wasn't there when it first came through his hands. When Mr. Somerville came on the stand later he denied emphatically that he had written this line. Neither one of the two men had any idea who did so.

Questioned by Coroner Nevitt, several attorneys and members of the jury, Mr. Curtis admitted that most anybody connected with the building department could look over these written reports, and he saw no reason why a man, who said he didn't know, should be permitted to write things on the reports.

When one of the jurors asked him if he didn't think this was a slack system, he said no.  
On a report dated November 20, three days before the accident, there was written a sentence to the effect that the building was first discovered to be leaning northward on Saturday, November 21. Mr. Curtis said that the statement on the report of November 20 must have got there in the building department, but he didn't understand it, in that it hadn't been there when the report first went through his hands.

Saw Nothing Unusual.  
When asked if he did not think it his duty to report to Mr. Ashford anything unusual which might come in on one of these slips filled out by inspectors, he said he did, but he hadn't seen anything unusual on any of the slips dealing with the collapsed building. All the unusual things, he said, were put on the slips probably after the accident. He didn't have any idea who made the additions and didn't recognize the handwriting.

His position in regards to the reports made by Mr. Isham was not made very clear to the jury, becoming confused in two or three attempts to explain the difference between a permit and "permission." He said that he supposed that a permit had been granted for the erection of the steel, but he knew one had been granted for the concrete work and when the first intimation came in on a report that steel was being used on this building, he said that he thought as a matter of course a permit had been granted, or Isham would have said it was not.

D. W. Summerville, who said that he is not a graduate engineer, but who confessed to forty-two years experience in the construction of bridges and structures, was the second witness. Mr. Summerville said that he was asked to do down to the old Pennsylvania Depot by Mr. McNamara, the contractor, who was removing the iron work.

Might Use Trusses.  
He was asked to make a computation as to the strength of the trusses. He said that he made one and found that with a 10 per cent reduction for deterioration, and with the understanding that a second inspection could be made and at a later date, he assured Mr. McNamara that the trusses might be used.

The second inspection, to which he referred, was to be made, he said, at the new warehouse. He said that he examined six trusses at each visit in order to save time. He only examined one, and did not explain during the morning why he had not examined the others.

Mr. Summerville denied any connection whatever with anyone interested in the building. He denied that he and Isham had ever talked over and while he admitted that the latter had called his attention to some defects in some "tension rods," he said that he had informed Isham that the whole scheme of erection was so worked out that these defects would be counterbalanced.

He, like Mr. Curtis, didn't seem to know where the contractor got his authority for the erection of the steel work. He said that he had told Isham that the contractors might go ahead with the iron work if everything was all right, and the two tests, which he had prescribed, had been made.

Hadn't Been to Scene.  
Although he told Coroner Nevitt, who cross-examined him first, that he hadn't been to the scene of the accident, in answering a question of his own attorney later, he said that in his opinion the structure had fallen because the trusses had not been laid vertically.

He said that in any case, whether new or second-hand steel were used, if it were not properly braced, the structure would tend to fall. He admitted, however, that William A. Newman, the subcontractor, who is putting up the steel, was so far as he knew, thoroughly competent.

Isham Blames Ashford.  
The testimony of Isham yesterday afternoon was sensational and he charged that Inspector Ashford and Computer Somerville were fully aware of the work which had been done on the building up to the time of its collapse, despite Mr. Ashford's statement that he did not know that the iron work was being installed.

Isham said he had reported to Somerville that the iron trusses were defective and that they "had no more stability than paper." On this account, he said, he declined to "O. K." the iron work and so reported to both Somerville and Inspector Ashford.

## PROSPERITY GROWS AS DAY FOLLOWS DAY

Railroad Earnings Show Good Increase, Factories Start  
Up All Over, and Principal Cities Report Improvement in General Business.

For the first three weeks in November the earnings of the railroads of the country were but eight-tenths of 1 per cent less than what they were for the corresponding period of November last year.

This has been a gradual betterment since August of nearly 14 1/2 per cent, and since October of nearly 3 per cent. Such great railroads as the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, the Chicago North-western, and the Hill roads, Northern Pacific, and Great Northern, have ceased to report idle cars and are now using their entire equipment to the limit.

This is clearly the result of the prosperity that has grown day by day since a short time before the Presidential election.

The dispatches published day by day have told the story of the resumption of mills in manufacturing districts, of the blowing in of great furnaces, the starting of the steel rail rollers, and of cotton spindles humming in practically every industrial center because the demand from consumers, the orders for new buildings, factories, etc., necessitates once more the limit of production, in many lines, even to the employment of night shifts.

From New York comes the daily story of the rush of orders from factories to jobbers and other distributing agents and the hustle to make deliveries to the retailers of the country.

Demand Unabated.  
Despite the fact that the weather all over the country has been unseasonable, the demand keeps up unabated. Holiday goods are going out in enormous quantities for the spirit of the Christmas cheer is once again at its zenith and every one is busy.

Here are some of the reports from great markets and producing centers:

"Good spot demand for hosiery, with silk lines in strong position."

"Big sales give new impetus to Boston wool market, and the demand is fully up to the supply."

"Print cloth sales are big and yarns are sold far ahead of production."

"The H. B. Claffin establishment states that good mail orders were received and business is improving every day."

"Rug demand broadens on new spring lines. Large manufacturers have more looms running than at any time this year. Old stocks are being rapidly cleaned up at special prices."

"No fear is entertained that cancellations will cut down the orders that have been booked." (This was the bugaboo of manufacturers last fall and this spring when merchants all over the nation were canceling orders right and left.)

"Garment manufacturers in this section (New York) are working overtime hours."

## Don Juan of Seventy Years Causes Arrest of His Nemesis

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Nov. 22.—Addison R. Weeks, aged seventy, a wealthy resident of De Soto, Mo., caused the arrest yesterday of Mrs. Evelyn M. Trost, who said she was forty-five years old, charging blackmail.

Weeks says his acquaintance with the woman began in 1898, when he was assistant manager of a big business house in New York city. He made frequent trips to Coney Island with her while his wife and daughter were in Europe. When they returned Mrs. Trost threatened to tell his wife if he broke off relations with her, he declared. He fled to Chicago, and thence to De Soto, where he brought his family to St. Louis, only to be followed by his "Nemesis."

Again he moved, this time to De Soto, where, he asserted, Mrs. Trost appeared and registered at a hotel as his wife and sued him for \$20,000, compromising for \$2,000.

Mrs. Trost said Weeks is worth \$100,000; that she married her fourteen years ago; that she has known him twenty-two years and learned only recently that he had wife No. 1, she being No. 2.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Nov. 22.—The Bellevue mills of this place expect to resume work in their wooden mills on full time as soon as sufficient supplies of warp and nilling can be obtained.

Closed for Many Months,  
Silk Mills to Resume

SOUTH COVINGTON, Nov. 22.—The mills of the Wauwango Silk Company will resume operations at once, after being closed down for months.

Knitting Company Starts  
Erection of New Mill

TROY, N. Y., Nov. 22.—The Knawnaugh Knitting Company has started the erection of a new mill near its present plant.

Woolen Mills Long Idle,  
Running on Full Time

MOOSUP, Conn., Nov. 22.—The mills of the American Woolen Company are now running on full time, after a long period of curtailment.

Receive Specifications  
For Structural Steel

PITTSBURGH, Nov. 22.—The Carnegie Steel Company has received from the American Bridge company specifications for 25,000 tons of structural steel for the new Northwestern railroad station at Chicago.

LECTURE ON LABOR  
AND THE CHURCH

A lecture entitled "The American Workingman," dealing with the relation of the laboring man to the church, will be delivered by Charles Steile, of New York, superintendent of the Presbyterian department of church and labor, at the Y. M. C. A. gymnasium hall tomorrow afternoon at 8:30. Mr. Steile is an able and convincing speaker, and an authority on this subject.

KILLS BEAR WITH CLUB.  
WILLIAMSPORT, Pa., Nov. 22.—George Smith, a lumber jobber, whose operation is in the Black Forest, ran into a black bear as the latter was rummaging for chestnuts. Smith was without a weapon, but he tackled the bear with a club and killed it. Bruin weighed 125 pounds. Five bears have been killed in the Black Forest within a week.

The Best Cough Cure  
A half-ounce of Virgin Oil of Pine, two ounces of Glycerine and a half-pint of Whisk. Mix and take a spoonful four times a day and break a cold in 24 hours. Take a teaspoonful every four hours. Ask your druggist for the genuine Lead's Virgin Oil of Pine compound pure, prepared and guaranteed by the Lead Chemical Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

## BUSINESS AND FLAG GROW IN HAND

Reports Show Enormous Increase in Trade With Dependencies of U. S.

"Trade of the United States with its noncontiguous territories will approximate \$100,000,000 for the year which ends next month."

Ten years ago, the trade with the same territories amounted to approximately \$50,000,000. The increase during the decade having been nearly 200 per cent. During the same period, the trade with foreign countries has increased less than 50 per cent.

This estimate of the grand total of the commerce between the United States and its noncontiguous territories is based upon ten months' return just compiled by the Bureau of Statistics of the Department of Commerce and Labor. These returns show \$88,000,000 in value of shipments to the United States from those territories, and \$53,000,000 value of shipments from the United States to those territories.

In the case of Porto Rico, the merchandise sent to the United States is chiefly sugar, tobacco, and fruits; and the merchandise sent from the United States in exchange is chiefly rice, meats, breadstuffs, cotton goods, manufactures of iron and steel, and miscellaneous articles. From the Hawaiian Islands the shipments to the United States are chiefly sugar, and the merchandise sent to those islands is chiefly breadstuffs, meats, iron and steel manufactures, cotton cloth, mineral oils, manufactures of tobacco and manufactures of wood.

From the Philippines the shipments to the United States are chiefly hemp and sugar, the value of the hemp being far in excess of that of the sugar, while the merchandise sent to the Philippines in exchange includes manufactures of iron and steel, cottons, breadstuffs, and mineral oils. From Alaska the principal merchandise sent to the United States is salmon, copper, and furs, and the merchandise sent from the United States to Alaska is chiefly breadstuffs, meats, iron and steel manufactures, cotton cloth, mineral oils, manufactures of tobacco and manufactures of wood.

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Recovery Real.  
It is perhaps wisdom to close this "prosperity symposium," with comment by Dr. Henry Clews, of New York.

"Consequence is still the rule in business affairs. The improvement is more marked in some directions than in others; but recovery is real nevertheless, and in many instances the volume of business is as large as in 1906 or 1905 at this time, comparisons with last year being misleading. This is clearly proven by the weekly bank clearings, one of the best of business barometers. Compared with last year's clearings, they are 50 per cent greater, owing to increased speculative activity and the fact that a year ago business was paralyzed by the panic."

"The H. B. Claffin establishment states that good mail orders were received and business is improving every day."

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After two years, Spencer Roberts, a former member of the Metropolitan police force, who resigned under compulsion, may be restored to the force. His story, which was discredited at that time as now accepted by the captain of his precinct, and as a result Roberts may again wear the uniform of a policeman.

Two years ago Roberts was detailed to No. 9 precinct. Returning to the station one night in a disheveled condition, he reported that he had been assaulted, and had lost his revolver. Inquiry on the part of his superior officers aroused in their minds the suspicion that Roberts was not telling the truth. Charges were preferred against him, and after a hearing before the

trial board he was sentenced to dismissal. Later he was permitted to resign, as the evidence against him was largely circumstantial.

Recently two women appeared at a local pawn shop and offered to pawn a policeman's revolver. The occurrence was reported by the pawnbroker to Police Headquarters, and it was discovered that the weapon was the one lost by Roberts. The arrest of the man who Roberts claimed had assaulted him, followed, and he was given a just sentence.

Capt. John C. Daley has appeared before the Commissioners with the statement that he now accepts Roberts' story, which he honestly doubted at the time, and the Commissioners are considering restoring the policeman to his former position.

ALEXANDRIA, GEORGETOWN  
MISS PULMAN WILL  
BECOME A BRIDE

Marriage Will Take Place at  
Grace Church on Next  
Wednesday.

WASHINGTON TIMES BUREAU,  
ALEXANDRIA, VA., NOV. 22.  
Invitations have been issued for the marriage of Miss Blanche May Pulman, daughter of Charles O. Pulman, to William H. McCuen, both of this city. The ceremony will take place at Grace Protestant Episcopal Church next Wednesday evening, December 2, at 7 o'clock, and will be performed by the Rev. Edgar Carpenter, the rector.

Evangelistic services will open at the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, tomorrow evening at 7:30 o'clock. The Rev. W. H. Holcomb will conduct the services and the chorus will be led by Emmett Rountree. The services will continue all next week.

The Rev. G. I. Humphries, of the Methodist Protestant Church, who has been visiting his old home in Maryland, has returned and will occupy the pulpit at his church tomorrow.

Miss Esther Woods, of Washington, is visiting Miss Phebe Deahl in this city.

A week of prayer will open next week under the auspices of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. The following will be the program during the week:

Sunday, November 22, 8 a. m.—Corporate communion at St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Monday, 7:30 p. m.—Services at Grace Episcopal Church by the Rev. Berryman Green.

Tuesday, 7:45 p. m.—Services at St. John's Church. West End meeting of Junior Local Assembly and election of officers.

Wednesday, 7:30 p. m.—Services at Grace Episcopal Church by the Rev. Edgar Carpenter.

Thursday, 7:30 p. m.—Services at Christ Episcopal Church by the Rev. William Jackson Morton.

Friday, 7:30 p. m.—Services at St. Paul's Episcopal Church by the Rev. P. P. Phillips.

Brooke Arnold has been promoted to the cashiership of the office of the Washington Southern Railway Company in this city.

Sergt. R. E. Mitchell passed through this city yesterday evening, having in charge Ben Carter, William Anderson, and Eugene Gardner, prisoners from the county jail in Alexandria county. The prisoners will be put to work on the roads.

Lee Drown was before Justice Thompson, in the police court, this morning, charged with breaking and entering the tool house in the Presbyterian Cemetery at night. Justice Thompson, after hearing the evidence against Drown, held him for the grand jury.

The funeral of the late Miss Sadie Hamilton will be held from her home in Jefferson street at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon. The funeral services will be conducted by the Rev. W. Van Arsdale, of Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church, and the burial will be made in Bethel Cemetery.

OLD BLISS SCHOOL  
USED FOR STORAGE

New storage headquarters for the public schools were obtained yesterday, when a lease was signed for the old Bliss Electrical School building, at 210 G street northwest, and the moving of the supplies from the basement of the Franklin School and other temporary storage points began this morning.

The Bliss building is a three-story brick, cement basement with about 7,500 square feet of floor space. It will be occupied for at least a year, and perhaps, until the old Franklin building is turned into headquarters for the Board of Education and supplies two years hence.

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